Interest of Money Mistaken.

OR

A Treatise, Proving, that the Abatement of

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IS THE

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And not the

CAUSE

Of the Riches of a NATION,

AND THAT

SIX PER CENT.

Is a Proportionable *Interest* to the present condition of this KINGDOM.

LONDON, Printed in the Year, 1668.

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LONDON, Printed in the Year, 1668.

Intereſt of Money miſtaken, &c.

ALthough I hope I ſhall always have too great a love for my Country, to deſign the oppoſing, or diſcouraging any thing, that may tend to the profit of it; acknowledging, that nothing can be more morally commendable, in men, then indeavours to advance the publike good; Yet having peruſed a ſhort Treatiſe lately publiſhed by *I. C.* pleading for the bringing down of *Intereſt* from Six to Four *per Cent.* as not only being the Inteteſt of our Nation, but that upon which it puts the whole ſtreſs, of the proſperity of any *Kingdom* or *Country*; And not finding that ſatisfaction in it, as I expected, from a thing writ with ſo much pretended advice; I ſhall deſire leave of the Author to examine his grounds, and arguments, and that with a love to my Native Country, equal to his own, without having any private intereſt to my ſelf in it.

The Treatiſe begins, with an obſervation of the prodigious increaſe of Trade and Riches in the *United Netherlands*, for which he gives 15 Reaſons, and afterwards in a Suppliment four more, which are as followeth.

Firſt, *They have in their greateſt* Councils of State and War, *trading Merchants that have lived abroad in moſt parts of the world; who have not only the Theoretical Knowledge, but the Practical Experience of Trade, by whom Laws and Orders are contrived, and Peaces with*

Forreign Princes projected, to the great advantage of their Trade.

Secondly, *Their Law of* Gavel-kind, *whereby all their Children poſſeſs an equal ſhare of their Fathers eſtates after their deceaſe, and ſo are not left to wraſtle with the world in their youth, with inconſiderable aſſiſtance of fortune, as moſt of our youngeſt Sons of Gentlemen in* England *are, who are bound Apprentices to Merchants.*

Thirdly, *Their exact making of all their Native Commodities, and packing of their* Herrings, Codfiſh, *and all other Commodities, which they ſend abroad in great quantities; the conſequence whereof is, That the repute of their ſad Commodities abroad, continues always good, and the Buyers will accept of them by the marks, without opening; whereas the Fiſh which our* Engliſh *make in* Newfound-Land *and* New-England, *and* Herrings *at* Yarmouth, *often prove falſe and deceitfully made, and our* Pilchards *from the* Weſt-Country *falſe packed; ſeldom containing the quantity for which the Hogsheads are marked in which they are packed.*

Fourthly, *Their giving great incouragement and immunities to the Inventors of New Manufactures, and the Diſcoverers of any New Myſteries in Trade, and to thoſe that ſhal bring the Commodities of other Nations firſt in uſe and practice among them; for which the Author never goes without his due Reward allowed him at the Publique Charge.*

Fifthly, *Their contriving and building of great Ships to ſail with ſmal charge, and not above one third of what we are at, for Ships of the ſame Burthen in* England; *and compelling their ſaid Ships (being of ſmal force) to ſail always in Fleets, to which in all times of danger they allow*

Convoy,

Sixthly,

Sixthly, *Their parcimonious and thrifty Living, which is so extraordinary, that a Merchant of one hundred thousand pound estate with them, will scarce spend so much* per annum, *as one of fifteen hundred pounds Estate in* London.

Seventhly, *The education of their Children, as well Daughters as Sons; all which, be they of never so great quality or estate; they always take care to bring up to write perfect good hands, and to have the full knowledge and use of Arithmetick and Merchants Accompts; the well understanding and practice whereof, doth strangely infuse into most that are the owners of that quality, of either* Sex, *not only an ability for Commerce of all kinds, but a strong aptitude, love, and delight in it; and in regard the women are as knowing therein as the men, it doth incourage their husbands to hold on in their Trades to their dying days, knowing the capacity of their wives to get in their Estates, and carry on their* Trades *after their Deaths: whereas if a Merchant in* England *arrive at any considerable Estate, he commonly withdraws his Estate from Trade, before he comes near the confines of old Age; reckoning that if God should call him out of the world, while the main of his Estate is engaged abroad in* Trade, *he must lose one third of it, through the unexperience and unaptness of his Wife to such Affairs, and so it usually falls out.*

Eightly, *The lowness of their* Customs, *and the heighth of their* Excise, *which is certainly the most equal and indifferent* Tax *in the world, and least prejudicial to to any People, as might be made appear were it the subject of this discourse.*

Ninthly, *The careful providing for, and employment of their poor, which it is easie to demonstrate can never be*

done:

done in England *comparatively to what it is with them, while it's left to the care of every Parish to look after their own only.*

Tenthly, *Their use of BANKS, which are of so immence advantage to them, that some, not without good grounds, have estimated the Profit of them to the Publick to amount to at least one million of pounds* sterling per an.

Eleventhly, *Their* Toleration in different Opinions in matters of Religion; *by reason whereof many* industrious People *of other Countries*, that dissent from the Established Government of their own Churches, resort to them with their Families and Estates, and after a few years cohabitation with them, become of the same Common interest.

Twelfthly, *Their* Law-Merchant, *By which all Controversies between Merchants and Tradesmen are decided in three or four days time, and that not at the fortieth part* (I might say in many cases not the hundredth part) *of the charge they are with us.*

Thirteenthly, *The Law that is in use among them for* transferrence of Bills for Debt *from one man to another: this it of extraordinary advantage to them in their Commerce, by means whereof they can turn their stocks twice or thrice in* Trade, *for once that we can in* England: *for that having sold our Forreign Goods here, we cannot buy again to advantage, till we are possest of our Money, which it may be we shal be six, nine, or twelve months in recovering: And if what we sell be considerable, it is a good man's work all the year to be following Vintners, and Shopkeepers for Money. Whereas, were the Law for transferring Bills in practise with us, we could presently after sale of our Goods, dispose of our Bills, and close up our accounts.*

counts. To do which, the advantage, ease, and accommodations it would be to Trade, is so great, that none but Merchants that have lived where that custom is in use, can value to its due proportion.

Fourteenthly, Their keeping up Publick Registers of all Lands and Houses, Sold or Mortgaged, whereby many chargeable Law-suits are prevented, and the securities of Lands and Houses rendred indeed, such as we commonly call them Real Securities.

Fifteenthly, The Lowness of Interest of Money with them, which in peaceable times exceeds not three per cent. Per Annum: and is now, during this War with England, not above four per cent. at most.

The four other reasons in the suppliments are,

1. Although they have no Law expresly limiting Interest at present, yet they have other Laws which we cannot arrive to, which do effect the same thing among them, and would do the like among us, if we could have them: One whereof, is, their ascertaining Real Securities by their Publique Regisers: for we see evidently Money is not so much wanting in England, as Securities, which men accompt Infallible; a remarkable instance whereof is; the East-India Company, who can and do take up what money they please, for four per cent. at any time.

2. Their constitution of Banks and Lumbards, whereby private persons that have but tollerable credit, may be supplyed at easie rates from the State.

3. Their Law for transferring Bills of Debt, mentioned in the beginning of this Discourse.

4. Which is a Custom, and in effect may be here to our purpose accompted as a Law, is the extraordinary Frugality used in all their Publique Affairs, which in their great-

greateſt Extremities *have been ſuch, as not to compel them to give above four* per cent. *for the loan of money.*

Having premiſed theſe reaſons, he notwithſtanding puts upon that of *Intereſt* being at three *per Cent.* the whole ſtreſs, And becauſe he cannot ſay, that ever *Intereſt* was by Law brought under ſix *per Cent.* in *Holland*, he adds in his Suppliment, three Laws, they have amongſt them, which, together with their frugality, he affirms, without any reaſon or proof given for it, is equivolent to the ſtating of *Intereſt* by Law, at 3. *per. Cent.* (to wit) *Publick Regiſters, Banks and Lumbards*, and *the transferring Bills of Debt*, But according to my reaſon, he ought to have rancked theſe laſt, with his 15 former reaſons, of the increaſe of their Trade, and Riches, the reſt of their good laws and orders, having their proportionable Influence upon *Intereſt* as well as they, and I muſt deny that theſe laſt Laws mentioned in his Suppliment are equivolent to a ſtinted *Intereſt by Law*, with us; becauſe in *Holland* they have power to take what *Intereſt* they can get, which if they had a law ſtating their *Intereſt* as with us, they could not do.

But being deſirous, to deal as Ingeniouſly with the Author, as is poſſible, I ſhal reduce his diſcourſe to three aſſertions, which he ſeems to me, poſitively to maintain,

Firſt, *That Intereſt being brought down from ſix to four* per Cent. *at preſent, and hereafter to three, will alone certainly increaſe the trade and riches of this Kingdom, as* Page 7 & 10.

Secondly, *That Intereſt being leſſened (as aboveſaid) Land will immediately after the paſſing ſuch a Law, yeild 30 years purchaſe at leaſt, ſo that the Nobility and Gentry* may

may presently reckon their estates doubled, and write instead of *fifty, one hundred pounds upon all they have*, Pag. 12, 13.

Thirdly, In his Suppliment he adds, *that the matter in* England *is prepared for an abatement of Interest, and that it cannot be long obstructed, for that Nature will have its course.* Pag. the 17.

If the truth of these assertions, to which I shall answer, had been made out, they would have carryed so much of publick good with them, as would have stopped all mens mouths, and made the greatest *Usurer* ashamed, to have spoke against them; for who could have been so impudent, as to have opposed the doubling the estates of our Nation, when it is as easily done, as said, the matter of the *Kingdom* being so prepared for it, as he averrs, that there wants nothing but the word, *let it be done*, but our condition in this point, not seeming at all to me so clear, as it doth to him, I think it no hard task, to answer his arguments, and overthrow his foundation.

If after giving his first 14, and afterwards 4 supplimentary *reasons*, besides that of *Interest*, with some others, which might have been added, for the Increase of the *Holland* Trade, and Riches, he had concluded, that when we should find our selves under such circumstances, we should find *Interest* to fall naturally of it self, to 4 and 3 *per Cent.* as the effects of those circumstances, I should have agreed with him; but without them, to fall *Interest* by a law to 4 and 3 *per Cent.* as the thing which alone will make us full of Trade, Riches, and in both, able to ballance *Holland*, as he averrs it will, I deny, affirming, that to do what he propounds, is to

force nature, which he grants will not be forced, and if the matter in *England*, is so prepared for an abatement of *Interest*, that it cannot be long obstructed, as he saith it is, we need no law for stating it, for nature will have its course with us, as well as in other Countries, and he cannot instance, in any Country, where by a Law, *Interest* is set under *6 per Cent.* and nature is best let alone unforced.

To prove his first assertion, *that the lowness of* Interest *is not the effect, but the cause of trade and riches*, he argues from the greatness of our present trade, to what it was before *An.* 1545. that no *Interest* was set at all, as also from the Increasing of it since, as *Interest* hath by degrees, been brought lower and lower, and makes his observation, that from *An.* 1600 to 1635. there was an Increase of ten for one, in *Merchants Estates*, upon the *Exchange*, and that from the falling of *Interest* from 8 to 6 *per Cent.* there hath been a further increase of 10 for one, in *Merchants Estates* Pag. 7. After this, he troubles himself to prove our present condition as to Riches, to be much greater, then formerly, which he needed not have done, every one granting it: But to shew, how subject he is to mistake, I shal deny his Instance, of *the Nobilities wearing Doublets with Canvas backs*, to be any proof at all, of our poverty then, and our riches now, or any thing more than the fashion or humour of those times: for to all that is versed in antiquities, it is well known, that our *Nobility* was abundantly greater formerly, then now they are, and that their declining hath given rise to the general riches of the Kingdom, more then the abatement of *Interest*: and if I would follow the Authors method, in arguing, I might

might better prove our preſent poverty, and former riches, from our Noblemens travelling antiently, with 100 ſervants and upwards, whereas now they travel, with 5 or 6. and ſome times fewer, then he our former poverty, and preſent riches, by Doublets with Canvas backs.

Secondly, To prove the fall of *Intereſt* to be the efficient cauſe of our riches, he inſtanceth in the late improvement of land in *England*, and *Ireland*, and confidently impoſeth (as if it made for him) that by asking the queſtion, what *Intereſt* any Country pays, it may by the anſwer be reſolved, that according to the more or leſſer *Intereſt* that they pay, the richer or poorer they are, bringing *Scotland* and *Spain* for examples of poverty, and *France* with *Italy* for riches: Theſe two are all the reaſons that I can find, he brings for proving his firſt aſſertion, which in truth are none at all, but the effects of other Circumſtances, as ſhall in due place appear:

Now, he ſets up ſome objections, and then anſwers them: but if I prove that *Intereſt* being reduced to a *medium* (as I ſhall hereafter make 6 *per Cent.* appear to be) the falling of it lower will not benefit, but in general prejudice the Nation, then taking notice of his objections and anſwers will be needleſs, and therefore ſhall only obſerve his anſwer to that Objection, That, *if Intereſt ſhould be fallen to* 4 per Cent. *the* Dutch *would call home their Money*; to which he anſwers, That, *if they ſhould, it would be the better for us*, Becauſe, ſaith he, *the Borrower is always a ſlave to the Lender*: which reaſon being no more, in the caſe of *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, then it lies in that of *Engliſh*, and *Engliſh*; amounts to

no leſs then the Condemning all borrowing, and lending; and to the diſcovering his deſign, of ingroſſing all trade, into the hands of a few rich Merchants, who have Money enough of their own to Trade with, to the excluding all young men, that wants it;

After his Objections, and Anſwers, he comes to enumerate all ſorts, that will be the better by the fall of *Intereſt*, but herein he proves nothing, but beggs the queſtion, as he uſually doth, in poſitively concluding, that the law for abatement being made, trade will immediately increaſe, lands will be double in value, and, conſequently the *King*, *Nobility*, *Gentry*, *Merchants*, *Tradeſmen*, *Farmers*, *Clothiers*, *Marriners*, *Porters*, *Packers*, all will be the better, and that we ſhall by this means, produce *Samſons* and *Goliahs* in ſtock, ſubtlety, and experience, to coap with our adverſaries, on the other ſide, a very plauſible impoſition; and I hope, though the Gentleman wants arguments to prove, that it muſt neceſſarily be ſo, he wiſheth it would be ſo:

Now he comes to give two Inſtances againſt *Intereſt* at 6 *per Cent.* and for the fall of it, one from old *Audleys* obſerving that 100 *l.* at *Intereſt*, at 10 *per Cent.* will in ſeventy years come to one hundred thouſand pounds, wherein I affirm he is no leſs miſtaken then in other things: The other, that the *Sugar-Bakers* in *Holland*, by reaſon of the lowneſs of *Intereſt*, can afford to give greater rates for our *Barbadoes Sugars*, notwithſtanding the charge of carrying them into *Holland*, and grow richer by their trades, than ours can do that buys them at their own doors: But at laſt, he ſparks out, and to ſhut the door of trade, to all others, but himſelfe, and a few more, who peradventure have mo-

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ney enough to trade with, or at least uncontroulable credit, he recommends the *Jewish Law* against all Usury, knowing well, none will lend money *Gratis*, Pag. 16.

This being the substance of the discourse, though I shal make answer to every particular in order, It will not be amiss, first to observe, that he makes use of the abuse of *Interest*, which no man pleads for (that being out of doors) to overthrow the profitable, moderate use of it, as in his instancing in *Audleys* observation of 100 *l.* at 10 *per Cent.* which no man speaks for, and his annexing a discourse against *Interest*, writ in 1621. when it was at 10 *per Cent.* Indeavouring thereby to impose a belief, that the Gentleman who writ that discourse, was of his mind (who is for bringing *Interest* to 3 *per Cent.* and indeed to nothing) whereas it may be supposed, the Author of that book was contented with having it at 8 *per Cent.*, because within four years after it was brought to that rate, and that otherwise, he would have writ further, It being probable, that he might live till after four years.

Thus having premised these observations, I come to make answer to his affertions, and his reasons for them, and beginning with the first, I deny, *That the lowneß of* Interest, *is the cause of riches*, and affirm it to be *only the effects of them*; for if otherwise, every Country, having it in their power to be rich, would certainly make themselves so by a low Interest stated by Law, no people desiring poverty rather than riches.

Secondly, if the lowness of *Interest*, were not the effects of riches, in *Holland* they might take as much *Interest* as they could get, there being no Law against it, but

but their riches, plenty of money, and reallity of security, is the true reason why they can get no more than 3 or 4 *per Cent.* in all other parts.

Thirdly, It is with money in *Holland* and all other parts (in point of *Interest*) as it is in the Exchange with us, the more money there is, and fewer takers, the lower is the Exchange, and when we have more lenders then borrowers *Interest* will be low without a law for it.

Fourthly, I confess, that the lowness or highness of *Interest*, in any Country, is a certain mark of its riches, or poverty; but though he would have this to be an argument for him, it is against him, and for me, who maintains, *the natural lowness of* Interest, *to be the* effects *of riches*, for that which he must prove, to make good his assertion, is, that any Country in the world, was ever from a poor & low condition, while *Interest* was at *6 per Cent.* made rich, by bringing it to 4 or 3. *per Cent.* by a law which I know is not to be done, nor, I believe, to be shewed, that any Country in the world, did ever state *Interest* by a law under *6 per Cent.* which argues that by a common consent of Nations, that sum is accounted indifferent to be imposed betwixt the Borrower and Lender, and may spare me any further labour of proving the equallity of *6 per Cent.* as to a stated *Interest*; For the Improvement of Land in *England*, which he instanceth in, if there be any such as to rents (as betwixt rents and value he doth not distinguish, but seems sometimes to mean the one and sometimes the other) it is strange to me, for some of my Relations and Acquaintance do to their grief and sorrow find their lands fallen in rents below what they yeilded fifty or sixty years agoe; and this is not their case alone, but I fear, setting aside some trading places, the condition of the Nation in general, yet if it were as he supposeth,

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it were no argument for him, becauſe it might be un ſerſtood to proceed from the effects of an equal Intereſt, after the falling of it from eight to ſix *per cent.* which no man pleads againſt, but to argue from one extream to another, is a bad argument, as to argue, that becauſe ten *per cent.* by Law was prejudicial to the Nation, and ſix *per cent.* which is moderate, is more beneficial; therefore (without any proofs) three *per cent.* is beſt of all, is no leſs then ſtill begging the queſtion; but how confidently ſoever he affirms the advancement in price of Land in *England*, to have been great, ſince the bringing down of Intereſt, from eight to ſix *per cent.* which was in *Anno* 1651. thoſe that have had Lands to ſell, never found any ſuch thing, but on the contrary, lower ſince. And if we have not experience of the riſe of Land, ſince Intereſt was fallen from eight to ſix *per cent.* which I do as poſitively affirm, we have not, as he doth that we have; how out of all proportion is he, in concluding, that no ſooner a Law for bringing Intereſt from ſix to four *per cent.* ſhall be made, then every *Nobleman* and *Gentleman* may write for 50, 100. upon all that he hath, reckoning his Land at 30. years purchaſe at leaſt; but ſuch extravigant paſſion may very well call in queſtion all that he ſaith, as proceeding from deſign.

As to the improvement of *Ireland*, if there be any thing to be bragged of there, as I fear there is not, much, though he brings it in, Page 8. as if it ſhould make for him, when conſidered, it doth not at all, neither can I underſtand his meaning, in quoting the improvement of *Ireland*, in Page 8. to prove the benefit of a low Intereſt, and quoting it again in Page 9. to prove the miſchief of a high Intereſt, which are contradictions; but indeed *Ireland*, being an extraordinary caſe, in this

it:

it is newly freed from the destroying sword, it cannot argue much, either for or against six *per cent*, and therefore it had been best let alone.

The instancing in *Spain* and *Scotland*, for paying ten and twelve *per cent*. Interest, is not to the point, because such sums being the abuse and excess of Interest, is no argument against six *per cent*, which is not so, nor for four or three *per cent*. which being stated by a Law, would be an extream on the other hand; but he is still as well mistaken in *Scotland*, where thy pay but eight *per cent*. as in other things.

In his affirming, that the Merchants Estates, upon the Exchange, were from *Anno* 1600. to *Anno* 1635. (which he saith was but ten years after the bringing Interest from ten to eight *per cent*.) increased *ten* for *one*, (Pag. 7.) he deals not plainly; for though he takes in 35 *years* for this Increase; he pens it, as if he would have the increase understood, to be in ten *years*, whereas his observation ought to have been, of the riches of the Merchants, in *Anno* 1625. when the abatement was first made, and what from that time, to *Anno* 1635. the increase was but as to his asserting, a second increase, in Merchants Estates: he there speaks plainly, and affirms, in the same Page 7. that from the fall of Interest from eight to six *per cent*. which was in *Anno* 1651. to the time of his writing his Book, *Anno* 1667. There was such another Increase as *ten* for *one*, wherein he is more out of proportion, then in his doubling of Noble and Gentlemens Estates, so soon as the Law for abatement of Interest is made: for I think, I may with more reason affirm, that *Anno* 1651. there were more Merchants upon the Exchange of 10000 l. Estates, then there is now; but I believe, that for two or three years after

after the fall of Interest from eight to six *per cent.* our Merchants increased in their Estates; but the cause being taken away, the effect ceased, and after that, they grew worse and worse. 73

For the Instance he brings from *Audley*, it doth not concern the question in hand, because it is supposing Interest at ten *per cent.* which every man abominates: And for the *Sugar-Bakers* Case, there being so many circumstances in it, as would be too tedious; I will only answer it with another Case, That from *Italy*, where he saith Interest is at three *per cent.* we (where Interest is at six *per cent.*) fetch the *Silk* that makes our *Silk-stockings*, which we carry back thither, and which we sell cheaper there, then our *English* Stocking-Weavers, who lives there, can or will afford those they make there; and this I speak by experience.

Now what hath been said, being sufficient (I suppose) to answer and disprove the two first assertions, that the bare bringing down of Interest to four *per cent.* will alone increase the Trade and riches of the Kingdom; and that immediately after passing a Law for it, every Noble and Gentleman, may write his Estate double, I come into the third assertion, *That the matter in* England, *is prepared for an abatement of Interest, and that it cannot be long obstructed, for that nature will have its course.* If the Gentleman had given any reason for this assertion, or explained what he meant by that matter, I should have either allowed or denyed them; but since he hath not, I shall give him my definition of such a preparation, and leave it to him to mend: where there is such a preparation, I judge there must necessarily be more people then the Land, to Till and manage ground as it is in *Holland*; for except Land be high, Interest cannot

be low; and I challenge any man, to ſhew me where Land is high, and the Country not populous; and though we cannot be ſaid to be very thin of people, we have ſurely more Land then people, as the Northern and other parts of the Kingdom ſheweth.

Secondly, To ſuch a preparation, I conceive, a full and great Trade is neceſſary; for without plenty of money Intereſt cannot be low, no more then Land high, without plenty of people; and without Trade, we cannot abound in either money or people.

Thirdly, To ſuch a preparation, *liberty of Conſcience*, together with low Cuſtoms, *is neceſſary*, to incourage our own people to manage and Till our Land (without being in fear of hard impriſonment) and ſtrangers to come in and trade with us; many more circumſtances are needful to ſuch a natural preparation as *I. C.* ſpeaks of; yet whether we are under theſe circumſtances, I refer to every mans Judgement. And having now ſaid (I preſume) enough to his three aſſertions, becauſe I find him at a loſs for the reaſon of our great Trade at preſent, to what we had anciently, which I ſuppoſe puts him upon miſtakes, I will help him the beſt I can in it, and give him, *Firſt*, thoſe reaſons which I judge was the cauſe of our want of Trade anciently; *Secondly*, of the increaſing of it ſince 1545. and 1600. and, *Thirdly*, the way to increaſe it yet more.

Firſt, Not long before *Anno* 1545. all Chriſtendom may be ſaid to have been under the bondage of the *Pope*, who keeping all Nations in continual conteſts one againſt another, or imployed to the Holy Land (that in the mean time he might fiſh in troubled waters; for by ſuch artifices he advanced himſelf) the people of *Europe*, as they had little Trade, ſo they had little time to mind Trade;

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and especially the *English*, who were so ridden by the *Pope*, that other Nations, in reproach of them, for their slavish servilities to him, called *England* his Ass.

Secondly, The *Priests*, *Monks*, *Fryars*, *Nuns*, and other Church-men, who devoured the Land without contributing any thing to the good of mankind, were so numerous, that they had half, if not three parts of the Land in their hands: One may gather by the *Statute of Mortmain*, which forbids their injoying any more, and which was made on purpose, lest otherwise they should have got all the Land into their hands; so that whilst such multitudes of that sort of cattel was amongst us, it was impossible for us to come forward, either in Trade or riches, and therefore it was not the want of a stated Interest that hindered our growth in Trade and riches, for we have no cause to judge our Ancestors wisdomes as to think they were not able to discern whether we were fit for a stated *Interest* or no; and that if they had found us prepared for it, they would not have given it to us.

Thirdly, Our *Nobility* and *Gentry* were then so great, that most of the rest of the people lived idle, by dependence upon them, without seeking further; and where any Nation is so constituted, as our was then, they shall never come forward, either in trade or wealth, which in some degree, is (at present) the case of *Scotland*; and that which makes them come no better forward in the world, and not the want of a lower stated Interest, it being but eight *per cent.* there; for that alone, without other circumstances, would do them no good, but make them worse, in draining them of all their money. And these are I suppose reasons enough to shew the cause of our ancient poverty, to what it is now; and that it was not the want of a stated Interest.

As to the cauſe of our flouriſhing, ſince 1545 and continuing in an increaſe of it ever ſince that time, the reaſons are

Firſt, Our caſting off the *Church of Rome*, with all its trompery and baggage (which hindred our proſperities) with not only dividing their Lands amongſt the *Nobility* and *Gentry*, &c. but alſo delivering the people in general, from the yoak of the Church, incouraged them much to Induſtry.

Secondly, the Statutes in *Henry* the 7's time, prohibiting Noblemens Retainers, and making their Lands lyable to debts, and ſalable, rendered the eſtates of *England* more defuſive, and forced retainers, who before lived idly by dependance upon their Maſters, to betake themſelves to Callings, which did conſequently naturally increaſe Trade. And for this I confeſs my ſelf indebted to that worthy Gentleman *I. H.* having it from his diſcovery of the ballance of Government.

Thirdly, The diſcovery and Improvement of the *Eaſt* and *Weſt-India* Trades, eſpecially our *Engliſh Plantations in the Weſt-Indies* hath been the greateſt cauſe of our increaſe in trade and wealth, ſince 1600. for whereas, we formerly had our Eaſt-Indie commodities from *Venice*, and moſt over land, now we have them directly by Sea from the *Eaſt-Indies*, and ſerves them, beſides other parts of *Europe*, with the ſame commodities we uſed to have from them, as well as with *weſt-Indie* commodities, & that that Trade grew naturally, and not by compulſion, we may obſerve, from that ſo ſoon as we got any freedom from the *Church* and *Nobility*, a ſtated *intereſt* was diſcovered to be uſeful, whereas before we were under no capacity, of making uſe of it, having as may be ſuppoſed little trade or money in the land; for

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An. 1545. when *Interest* was first limited, *Henry* the 8. had alienated the Church-lands, and cast off *Rome*, which made limiting of *Interest* useful to us, because the wealth of *England*, then begun to be defusive (and thereby trade to grow) which before it was not; and thus much I think may serve to shew, that the lessening of *Interest* was not the cause of our increase of trade; but the increase of trade, by other accedents, was the cause of the lessening (which before was unlimited) of *Interest*; and that it was lessened by stinting it by a law: was because our Ancestors who could not then (Trade being new to them) so well understand that the nature of trade is such, as will of it self bring *Interest* under: but because bringing *Interest* in those days to 10 *per Cent.* certain, from peradventure 12 or 14. Trade did afterwards increase, which without it I believe it would have done, the obstructions being then removed, it doth not follow, that to bring it from 6. which is a proportionable rate to land) to 4 *per Cent.* will still increase trade; for if we will imitate *Holland*, in *Interest*, we must use those means as they do, which will bring it naturally low, and not to think to do that by compulsion with us, which with them is done by nature: They have, by the means of Trade, much more people than land; their trade makes plenty of money and people; their plenty of money, with abundance of people, makes land dear, and the dearness of land, with plenty of money, makes *Interest* naturally low; when we can say, that we have more people then land, which must be occasioned by Trade, which will bring plenty of money, then we shall find land rise, and *Interest* naturally low; but to follow *Holland* in their natural way, by a Compulsive Law, when we have not parity of reason;

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we ſhall but hurt our ſelves, and give them an advantage in trade, by having our Trade ingroſſed, into a few over-grown rich mens hands; to the excluding young men with ſmal ſtocks, and I wiſh the writing of this Book, hath not been done out of ſome ſuch deſign.

The way to increaſe trade, and thereby money, and conſequently bring *Intereſt* in a natural way low, is by obſerving thoſe rules practiced by the *Hollanders*, and laid down by *I. C.* in the beginning of his Book, and Suppliment, and here recited, with ſome others that might be added, but without them it can never be done, naturally, and to do it otherwiſe will undoe us, by bringing, as is before hinted, all trade into a few hands, and if *I. C.* did not intend to bring the practice of the *Hollanders* into *England*, together with the Law for Abatement of *Intereſt*, I wonder why he mentioned the reaſons given in the begining of his Book, except he did it to ſhew that he would go contrary to them; the benefit of *Liberty of Conſcience* is very obſervable, in the Province of *Holland*, where giving it freely, they flouriſh exceedingly, while the rigidnes of the *Presbyters of Zeoland*, and *Freezeland* their Neighbours, and who have I think equal conveniency for Trade with them, are mightily kept back by their narrowneſs in it. And now I ſhall ſay no more then recommend unto obſervation the manner of *I. C.* writing: As

Firſt, in his giving the reaſons which makes Intereſt naturally in *Holland* at three *per cent.* and yet concluding (without any reaſon ſhewn) that a law to ſtate intereſt at four or three *per cent.* will do the ſame with us, as the reaſons he inſtanceth in doth naturally with them.

Secondly, That he begs the queſtion (without making any thing good) of all his three aſſertions, As that a ſta-

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ted low Intereſt is the cauſe of riches, bringing only for proof, That in rich Countries Intereſt is low, which proves no more, then, that a low Intereſt is the effect of riches, wherein we had the example in 1649, 1650, 1651. when the Intereſt by Law being then at eight *per cent.* good ſecurity could have it at five. That as ſoon as a Law is made to bring Intereſt to four *per cent.* he barely affirms, without proof, That Land will be of double value; and this he doth againſt the experience of the laſt fall of Intereſt, from eight to ſix *per cent.* which produced no riſe at all, as the ſellers of Land can witneſs: And that the matter of *England*, which he affirms is prepared for an abatement of Intereſt, he makes no attempt to prove.

Thirdly, That he argues from one extream to another, making Inſtances againſt ten *per cent.* to ſerve for bringing it to four and three *per cent.* without giving any reaſons why ſix *per cent.* is not an indifferent rate for Law to take notice of, and makes uſe of an obſervation of *Audleys*, which is a falſe calculation.

Fourthly, That his calculations concerning Merchants Eſtates upon the Exchange, is ſo far out of all proportion, that whereas he ſaith, they are increaſed *ten* for *one* ſince that laſt fall of Intereſt from eight to ſix *per cent.* thoſe that knows the Exchange beſt do believe they are not by much ſo rich now as they were in 165'. when Intereſt was at eight *per cent.* a vaſt difference betwixt *ten* for *one*, and leſs then nothing.

Fifthly, That he miſerable miſtakes the ground of our ancient poverty in putting it upon the want of a low ſtated Intereſt, when it proceeded wholly from the ſlavery the people were in thoſe dayes under to the *Nobility*, but principally to the *Church*.

Sixthly,

Sixthly, When he pretends to make inquiry whether a low Interest be truly the cause or effect of riches, he concludes, without giving one syllable of reason for it, that it is the cause of the prosperity and riches of any Nation; and that it may be taken notice of, puts it in great letters, Page 1.

Seventhly, He saith it hath always been the policy of the people of *Holland* to keep down Interest three or four *per cent.* under their Neighbours, as if they did it by Law (for otherwise nature, and not policy doth it) whereas it is utterly untrue, that ever they made any Law to that end.

Eighthly, Though his Instance in the *East Indy Companies* taking money at four *per cent.* be true, yet it proceeds from their generosity in paying in men their money at any time upon a days warning, which conveniency to monied men, that lyeth in wait for good bargains, deserves a low Interest, the Company being therein little less then noble Cash keepers to monied men, giving them four *per cent.* more then they could make of their money, if it lay in their own Iron-chests: and though it be true, that the Company have money at four *per cent.* it stands not with reason that from this example men should be forced by a Law to lend money at the same rate, or not at all, where there is not a parity of reason.

Ninthly, The Treatise he annexeth unto his, is as grosly mistaken as himself, in saying, that most of the Countries with whom we hold Commerce, doth not tollerate above six *per cent.* whereas I know no great trading Cities that doth limit Interest at all: *Hambourge* and *Dantzick*, which are for trade next to *London* and *Amsterdam*, doth not; and *I. C.* confesseth, that in *France* Interest is at seven *per cent.* and yet instanceth that Country for Riches.

Tenthly, Whereas he insinuateth, that the cause of *Scotlands* poverty proceeds from Interest, being there at ten or twelve *per cent.* I am informed, that whereas formerly Interest was by law at six *per cent.* they have of late years judged it for their advantage to raise it by Law to eight *per cent.*

Eleventhly and lastly, Whilst he saith, that the matter of *England* is so naturally prepared for an abatement of Interest, that it cannot be long obstructed, he propounds a Law to anticipate nature, which is against reason. And thus hoping that we shall not be led to our own distruction, by a confident imposing mistakes upon us, I have done.

FINIS.